GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3505
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
DECLINE IN FERTILITY OF LAND
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the reckless use of chemical fertilizers in most of the agricultural lands the level of micro nutrients is diminishing;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to meet this shortfall;

(c) whether the agricultural scientists of the country have given suggestions for the prevention of the evil affects due to the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture and for promoting the use of organic and bio-fertilizers for sustainable agriculture; and

(d) if so, the views of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b) Fertilizer consumption in India is still very low as compared to consumption in neighbouring and developed countries. The consumption of fertilizers in nutrient terms in India is about 95 Kg. per hectare whereas consumption in Pakistan,Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, U.K. and Netherlands is 113, 135, 160, 375, 379 and542 kg. per hectare respectively. Fertilizer consumption in India, therefore, cannot be termed reckless. The deficiencies of micro nutrients in intensively cultivated areas do occur in the process of removal of soil nutrients by crops. The deficiencies are assessed through soil analysis and are accordingly corrected by application of required micro nutrients.

(c) & (d) There are no ill effect due to the use of chemical fertilizers when applied as per recommendation for a given soil-crop system. Use of organics and bio-fertilizers is being promoted as supplementary nutrient sources and as a constituent of integrated nutrient management system.